

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4-9, 11, 12, 15-30, 34 and 35 are pending herein. Claim 10 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 4-7, 11, 12, 15, 19, 20, 34 and 35 have been amended to correct matters of form. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to correct the lack of antecedent basis for the term "number." Claims 4-6, 11, 12, 15, 19 and 20 have been amended to depend from claim 1. Additionally, claims 4 and 5 have also been amended to correct the lack of antecedent basis for the term "repairing method." Claim 7 has been amended to correct the lack of antecedent basis for the term "amounts." Claim 15 has been amended to correct the lack of antecedent basis for the term "results" by rewriting the claim as explained below. Claims 34 and 35 have been amended to correct the lack of antecedent basis for the term "number." Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

1. The objection to claim 1 for minor informalities is noted, but deemed moot in view of rewritten claim 1 submitted above.
2. The rejection of claim 1 under §112, second paragraph is noted, but deemed moot in view of rewritten claim 1 submitted above.
3. The rejection of claims 4-12, 15-16 and 19-24 under §112, second paragraph is noted, but deemed moot in view of the rewritten claims submitted above.
4. The rejection of claims 4 and 5 under §112, second paragraph is noted, but deemed moot in view of the rewritten claims submitted above.
5. The rejection of claim 7 under §112, second paragraph is noted, but deemed moot in view of rewritten claim 7 submitted above.

6. The rejection of claim 10 under §112, second paragraph is noted, but deemed moot in view of the cancellation of claim 10.

7. The rejection of claim 15 under §112, second paragraph is noted, but deemed moot in view of rewritten claim 15 submitted above.

8. Claims 25 and 29 were rejected under §112, second paragraph as indefinite based on the Examiner being unable to determine what the applicant was claiming by the claim language "franchisee number managing device." This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted on page 12 of the specification, Figure 2 is a block diagram illustrating one example of the charge information processing apparatus 10, which includes CPU 11. In Figure 2, several of the major functions performed by CPU 11 as part of the charge information processing apparatus 10 are shown as sections within CPU 11. The claimed phrase "franchisee number managing device" refers to the franchisee number managing section, which manages the number of franchisees in a particular region. A description of the franchisee number managing section is provided on pages 23 and 24 of the specification, for example. The phrase "franchisee number managing device" refers to the software applicable to this section running on the hardware of CPU 11. The same reference terminology is also used to refer to the other sections of CPU 11, for example, franchisee information managing device, as depicted in Figure 2.

For the reasons explained above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 25 and 29 comply with §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

9. The rejection of claim 34 under §112, second paragraph is noted, but deemed moot in view of rewritten claim 34 submitted above.

10. The rejection of claim 35 under §112, second paragraph is noted, but deemed moot in view of rewritten claim 35 submitted above.

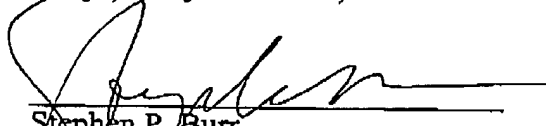
If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

December 14, 2005

Date

Respectfully submitted,


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